INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

IMO

E

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE
60th session
Agenda item 3

MEPC 60/3/1
8 January 2010
Original: ENGLISH

RECYCLING OF SHIPS

Need to emphasize the importance of safe handling of devices containing radionuclides

Submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document proposes some amendments to the text of the draft Guidelines for Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling, in order to emphasize the importance of safe handling of devices containing radionuclides
Strategic direction:	7.1
High-level action:	7.1.2
Planned output:	7.1.2.2
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 4
Related document:	MEPC 60/3

Proposal

1 The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) expresses appreciation to Japan for submitting the draft Guidelines for Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling (MEPC 60/3) and, in recognizing the need to emphasize the importance of safe handling of devices containing radionuclides, proposes some amendments to the draft Guidelines.

2 The current text of the first two paragraphs of section 3.4 on page 79, in annex 2 to document MEPC 60/3, reads as follows:

> "*As indicated in the Inventory of Hazardous Materials, heavy metals are found in batteries, galvanized materials, level switches, gyro compasses, thermometer, etc. Radioactive substances are found in level indicators, and smoke detectors.*
>
> *The equipment and other instruments containing those heavy metals should be removed carefully so as not to be broken and so as to avoid heavy metals to contaminate the environment. Reusable equipment and instruments should be stored properly. Broken equipment and instruments should be delivered to the designated company.*"

3 It is proposed to replace the two paragraphs as follows (proposed new text is underlined, proposed deletions are shown with strikethrough):

> "*As indicated in the Inventory of Hazardous Materials, heavy metals are found in batteries, galvanized materials, level switches, gyro compasses, thermometer, etc. Radioactive substances are found in fluorescent paint, neutron sealed sources for measuring the water on deck, devices for 'bunker' analysis, level indicators, sludge density indicators, ~~and~~ smoke detectors and other radioactive devices.*
>
> *The equipment and other instruments containing those heavy metals or radioactivity should be removed carefully so as not to be broken and so as to avoid heavy metals or radioactivity to contaminate the working place or the environment. Reusable equipment and instruments should be stored properly. Broken equipment and instruments should be delivered to the designated company. If equipment containing radioactivity is broken, decontamination measures should be considered. In case of breakage, workers trained in handling radioactive substances should be involved. Resulting radioactive waste should be treated, stored or disposed in accordance with national regulations and IAEA Safety Standards[1] and guidance[2].*"

Action requested of the Committee

4 The Committee is invited to consider the proposal and to take action as appropriate.

_____

[1] INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, Safety Series No. 115, *International Basic Safety Standards for the Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources*, Appendix III, p. 59-60; Vienna, 1996. IAEA is currently in the process of updating IAEA Safety Series No. 115.

[2] INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, Safety Guide No. WS-G-2.7, Management of Waste from the Use of Radioactive Material in Medicine, Industry, Agriculture, Research and Education, Vienna 2005).